



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

11 SEPTEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – California Sees Six of Top 20 Largest Fires in History

(U) The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection says as of Thursday wildfires have scorched nearly 4,844 square miles so far this year, six of the top 20 largest fires in state history have occurred this year as well. California is now almost entirely free of Red Flag warnings for critical fire weather, but 14,000 firefighters remain on the lines of 29 major wildfires.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [WMDT](#)

(U) Palm Desert – Arrest Made in Firebombing of Republican Headquarters in La Quinta

(U) The US Department of Justice (DOJ) announced that a Palm Desert man is in custody for allegedly firebombing the East Valley Republican Women Federated (EVRWF) office in La Quinta back in May. The suspect was identified on Thursday by the DOJ as Carlos Espriu, 23, and was named in a federal criminal complaint that charges him with attempted arson. The criminal complaint alleges that on 31 May, a masked Espriu used a metal baseball bat to break windows at the EVRWF headquarters, then lighted an improvised incendiary device constructed of three bottles that he tossed through the windows before fleeing.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [News 3](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) South Carolina – Local Police Chief Stabbed

(U) Bonneau – On 7 September, Forrest Bowman stabbed Bonneau Police Chief Franco Fuda under his left eye with an ice pick and stated he was “going to die today,” after Chief Fuda answered a knock at his front door. Bowman fled to his mobile home after the assault and a standoff ensued with police before he was arrested. Bowman faces charges that include attempted murder for the assault.

SOURCE: 9 September 2020, [Fox News](#)

(U) Washington – Russia, China, and Iran Ramping up Attacks Ahead of Election

(U) Redmond – Groups backed by Russia, China, and Iran have in recent weeks launched cyber-attacks targeting the Trump and Biden campaigns, as well as people and organizations involved in the 2020 race, as part of efforts to interfere in the upcoming election, Microsoft warned Thursday. Tom Burt, the company's corporate vice president of customer security and trust, said in a blog post that the malign activity “makes clear that foreign activity groups have stepped up their efforts targeting the 2020 election as has been anticipated.” Most of the attacks were detected by the tech company and stopped.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [CBS News](#)

(U) Washington – Officers Arrest Woman After She Used Machete to Attack Security Guard

(U) Seattle – Officers arrested a 32-year-old woman late Tuesday evening on Capitol Hill after she attacked an apartment building security guard, slashing him in the arm with a machete. Around 11:20 PM, the 50-year-old security guard was patrolling near the 1600 block of 12th Avenue, near the Seattle Police Department’s East Precinct, when a 32-year-old woman began yelling insults at him from a

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vehicle. When the guard walked away, the woman continued to insult him then retrieved a machete from her vehicle and proceeded to assault the guard. The guard suffered two five-inch cuts, and the woman drove away. Some members of a nearby demonstration group initially tended to the guard's wounds before police took over. The suspect was found at a nearby gas station and was booked into the King County Jail on investigation of assault.

SOURCE: 10 September 2020, [KIRO 7](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Democratic Republic of Congo – Suspected Islamist Militants Carry Out Several Attacks

(U) Ituri – On 10 September 2020, officials in Ituri province stated that suspected Islamist militants launched several attacks in the villages of Tsabi and Tondoli, located approximately 75-miles south of the city of Bunia, on 8-9 September. The attacks resulted in at least 58 fatalities. Although no group has yet to claim responsibility for the attacks, they are believed to have been perpetrated by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a Ugandan armed group that operates in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Such attacks are common in eastern DRC and have displaced hundreds of thousands of residents.

SOURCE: 11 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Mexico – Authorities Find Body of Journalist

(U) Veracruz – On 9 September 2020, authorities found the body of a deceased journalist near railroad tracks in the municipality of Tezonapa, Veracruz state. Local media sources indicate that the victim had been tortured and beheaded. The Veracruz State Commission for Attention and Protection of Journalists (CEAPP) is demanding that the government provide justification for why it did not provide additional security for the victim.

SOURCE: 11 September 2020, [Telegraph](#)

(U) Switzerland – 'Emir of Winterthur' Convicted in Jihadist Trial

(U) Zurich – A man dubbed the “Emir of Winterthur” by Swiss media, described by prosecutors as a leading figure among Islamist militants in Switzerland, was sentenced to 50-months in prison on Friday for supporting and recruiting for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). Prosecutors said the 34-year-old Swiss-Italian dual citizen had travelled to ISIS controlled areas of Syria in 2013, where he joined a combat unit aligned to the militant group. Upon returning to Switzerland, he capitalized on his reputation as a warrior to motivate several people to join ISIS, prosecutors said. They called him “a Salafist guiding figure in Switzerland” who liaised with several convicted ISIS recruiters in Europe.

SOURCE: 11 September 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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